



It's SMILES at Ramstein

Story and photo
by Grant Sattler

The completion of the Ramstein Dental Clinic Addition has people in the Kaiserslautern Military Community smiling. The addition, phase one of a three-phase project on Ramstein Air Base, was ceremonially opened with a ribbon cutting Dec. 16.

"The 86th Dental Squadron is really excited about how this new facility will enhance the 60,000 annual patient visits we provide, over half of which are from family members, and the \$12 million worth of care we provide each year," said Col. Kevin Blair, commander of the dental squadron, in remarks.

The two-story, \$5.4 million addition expands the clinic's floor space by more than 30 percent to 36,000 square feet. The additional 17 dental treatment rooms bring the total to 61. Blair said efficiencies the additional space provides include the ability to house all the dental specialists in the Kaiserslautern area under one roof and providing state-of-the-art pediatric specialty care.

"This is completion of Phase I of this project, but Phase II and III remain. Six to nine months from now, with luck, all will be completed,"

Blair said. "All the facility will have an updated look and a much needed fire suppression sprinkler system."

LBB Kaiserslautern Director Norbert Hoebel said the work on the adjoining Building 301, housing a dental clinic staff of nearly 100, includes installation of a sprinkler system in the existing building so that the entire facility will meet fire regulations. Building 301 was constructed in 1953 at cost of \$160,000. The building first served as the combined home of base medical clinic, dental clinic, food inspectors and medical storage, but became the sole possession of the dental clinic in 1978.

Ground was broken March 2, 2001, for the addition. Project Manager Oryal Aktasli said the facility user elected to build to the higher standard, whether European or U.S., to provide the best quality of life for patients. In some instances, such as in the case of medical gas supply where the European standards were more stringent, doing so was more expensive. Construction contractor Firma Budau continues work on Phases II and III of the project. Work also includes landscaping, utilities and new parking areas.

"What we see today wasn't the dream of any one individual, this project was truly a team effort," Blair said as he named many of those involved. "Frau Holzer and John Moreno from the Corps ... took care of the occasional speed bumps that arose."



Key Members of the Project Delivery Team

Europe District's
Project Engineer
Jutta Holzer-

Lyroth, Resident Engineer John Moreno and
Project Manager Oryal Aktasli, and the medical
community's Col. Charles DeFreest, Master Sgt.
Norma Lozano, and Stefanie Hauck.